

# POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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March 20, 2005

*Palm Sunday*

**Today:** Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Veronica Dyck, Eric Hannan will be leading us in song, Kathryn Schmidt will be accompanying on the piano, and Marcie Good is your usher. Later we will hear from Janet Boldt, whose sermon is entitled “Reconciliation: Mercy and Truth have met together” based on Matthew 21:1-11. Jaclyn Smith will be with the babies and preschoolers in the nursery, and Marcie Good and Angela Ekkert will be with the Sunday School classes. Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship in the lounge.

**Last Sunday:** Last Sunday, Henry Kliewer (Conference Minister, MC-BC) spoke on Genesis 12.1-12 and John 3.1-21. He marvels that each day gives us new opportunities to experience God's grace in new ways. Abram (Genesis 12) was asked to take a risk by leaving family and creating a new community (much like some of our ancestors have done). Nicodemus (John 3) was also asked to take a risk by traveling spiritually, by joining a new community being formed by Jesus. This new community was characterized by light (Nicodemus came by night, possibly in the darkness of his soul and Jesus told him the new community was quite different), by knowledge (no one can see [light] the Kingdom without undergoing a rebirth or renewal), by faith (just as the Israelites were asked to look in faith towards the snake erected on a pole, so the new community looks up at the cross in faith), by being born again by water and the spirit (being repeatedly renewed), and by love (the sort of love which brings one into rebirth or renewal). Henry noted that whenever Christ's new community is torn apart by divisions (homosexuality, etc.), the community tends to hide its best features from others. Perhaps when this happens, Jesus is asking us, like Nicodemus, to rethink things and embark on a new journey into rebirth. Are we open to renewal? Jesus never drew lines which excluded people, but too many faith communities are now focusing on excluding certain believers. Henry asked whether we are willing to stay around the table, talking with people having points of view which differ from ours, or do we feel that only we have the truth? Perhaps if we can stay together at the table long enough, another way will be revealed to us and the community itself can be reborn and renewed. [JEK]

## **PGIMF News:**

Please join us for pre-service hymn singing at 9:45 as we work our way through the book from 1 to 658.

## **Upcoming speakers**

<b>March 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>Liturgical Service</b>
March 27	J. Evan Kreider	Easter Sunday
April 3	Dan Unrau	-
April 10	David Brubaker	-

☺ Please remember that next Sunday will be our annual **Easter Faspa Breakfast** at 9:00 am before the service. There will be no potluck afterwards.

### **RECORDING THE SERVICE**

Please note that we now record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will continue to be not recorded.

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✓ Just a reminder that there are new **church lists** in your mailbox. If you want one that is listed by first name instead of last name, please see Andre for a copy. Also, please make sure you check the CORRECT mailbox - all the names are now attached to different numbers.

🎵 **Abendmusik** Lenten Vespers - Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm at Knox United Church (5600 Balaclava at West 41st Avenue). The Lenten theme features an assortment of choral treasures including 2 motets by American composer Aaron Copland, a cantata movement by J.S. Bach (“Weinen, Klagen”), and Howard Goodall’s arrangement of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, better known as the theme from the BBC TV series “The Vicar of Dibley.” For more information, see [www.mennosimonscentre.com/avc/abendmusik.htm](http://www.mennosimonscentre.com/avc/abendmusik.htm).

We have received 24 free passes to the premiere showing of “St. Ralph”. This is the unlikely story of Ralph Walker, a ninth grader who, convinced that only a miracle can save his ailing mother, outruns everyone’s expectations except his own in his deluded quest to win the 1959 Boston Marathon. Directed by Michael McGowan and featuring Campbell Scott, Gordon Pinsent, and Jennifer Tilly. The showing is on Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, and the marketing director warns moviegoers to be early as these showings are over-subscribed, and a seat is NOT guaranteed. Some tickets are reserved for the Menno Simons Centre students who have indicated interest, and the rest are open to those who really want to go.

👉 A reminder that Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> is the PGIMF Annual General Meeting and we are seeking nominations for a variety of positions. Your mailboxes have a list of the positions available. Please feel free to nominate anyone, including yourself - age or experience no barrier! Please return nominations to Andre Pekovich. It is also time for current church officers to start writing their reports for the AGM. All reports to be submitted by April 12<sup>th</sup> for inclusion into the booklet.

**Membership Sunday** We had so much success at our last membership Sunday that others have decided to join the church. Please make plans to attend Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> to welcome others into our fellowship. If you would like to become a member of this congregation at the same time, please see any member of the board to discuss your faith journey and make arrangements to join the church.

### The Wider Church

Please be aware of other congregations’ Sunrise Services for next Sunday. Although none are scheduled in the immediate West Point Grey ministerial association area, there are others throughout the city.

**West Point Grey Presbyterian** is searching for an organist/choir director for a part-time position that will become vacant in June with the retirement of the current organist. Duties include participation in all regularly scheduled and special services; preparation of anthems on a regular basis membership in the Worship Committee; development of other musical programs in conjunction with the Worship Committee. Applications including a curriculum vitae and the names of 3 referees should be submitted to the Search Committee Convenor, Dr. J. Cullen, as soon as possible c/o Church Secretary, West Point Grey Presbyterian Church, 4397 West 12th Ave, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2P9.

**Charlotte 2005 Assembly** Plan now to attend the next joint MC Canada/MC USA Annual Assembly in Charlotte NC. Please see [www.mennonitechurch.ca/events/charlotte/](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/events/charlotte/) for more details, especially for hotel discounts. Veronica Dyck will be attending as the representative from Christian formation council, the position she has held for the past term. Others attenders are welcome - please see Don if you wish to go. Flights go on sale now!

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## Call to Worship

L1 This is the day that the Lord has made!  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

L2 *The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

**P O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.**

L1 Hosanna to the Son of David!

L2 *Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*

**P Hosanna in the highest!**

All This is the Lord's doing. It is marvellous in our eyes.

## Psalm 85

<sup>1</sup> You showed favour to your land, O LORD; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.

<sup>3</sup> You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.

<sup>4</sup> Restore us again, O God our Saviour, and put away your displeasure towards us.

<sup>5</sup> Will you be angry with us for ever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations?

<sup>6</sup> Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

<sup>7</sup> Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup> I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints but let them not return to folly.

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup> Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

<sup>13</sup> Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps [NIV]

## 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

<sup>14</sup> For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

<sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no-one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to

himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

[NIV]

## Matthew 5:21-26

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<sup>21</sup> You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' <sup>22</sup> But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

<sup>23</sup> Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar.

First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

<sup>25</sup> Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup> I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

[NIV]

## Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?

<sup>16</sup> So they sent word to Joseph, saying, Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father. When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

<sup>18</sup> His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. We are your slaves, they said.

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children. And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

[NIV]

## Prayer of the Chalice

Beloved, to Thee I raise my whole being,  
a vessel emptied of self. Accept, O Lord,  
this my emptiness, and so fill me with  
Thy Self --- Thy Light, Thy Love, Thy  
Life --- that these Thy precious Gifts  
may radiate through me and over-  
flow the chalice of my heart into  
the hearts of all with whom I  
come in contact this day,  
revealing unto them  
the beauty of  
Thy joy  
and  
Wholeness  
and  
the  
serenity  
of Thy Peace  
which nothing can destroy.

Francis Nuttall